

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 /055 W  
-----190148Z 106882 /63

R 171105Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4353  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0553

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, EAID, GY, US  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER PLEASED WITH US VISIT

REF: STATE 55812

SUMMARY: FONMIN WILLS RETURNED DURING THE NIGHT OF MARCH 15 FROM HIS WASHINGTON VISIT AND CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE MARCH 16 TO ASK THAT I CONVEY TO THE DEPARTMENT HIS APPRECIATION OVER THE COURTEOUS ATTENTION HE RECEIVED FROM THE SECRETARY AND OTHER US OFFICIALS. THE ONLY PRESS COVERAGE THUS FAR OF HIS TRIP WAS THE PUBLICATION OF USIS WIRELESS ITEM ON MARCH 12. ABSENCE OF PRESS COVERAGE REFLECTS THE CAUTION WITH WHICH GOG FEELS IT MUST TREAT WHAT IS GENERALLY REGARDED BY ITS FRIENDS AND FOES ALIKE AS A "CROW-EATING" EXERCISE. WILLS WAS SCHEDULED TO REPORT TO BURNHAM LATE MARCH 16 ON HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. THEY WILL REACH SOME DECISION AS TO HOW THE VISIT WILL BE PLAYED TO GUYANESE PUBLIC AND IN DOING SO WILL HAVE TO BALANCE OFF PRESENT POLITICAL LIABILITIES AND EMBARRASSMENT WITH THEIR EXPECTATIONS OF POTENTIAL  
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POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO FLOW FROM AN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN WILLS RETURNED TO GEORGETOWN LATE MARCH 15 AND ON MARCH 16 CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE. HE TOLD ME HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE RECEPTION HE HAD RECEIVED AND WITH THE MEETINGS THAT HE HAD WITH THE SECRETARY AND OTHER US OFFICIALS.

HE ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS APPRECIATION TO THE SECRETARY AND OTHERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN HIS VISIT.

WHILE BRIEFING ME ON HIS VARIOUS MEETINGS, HE SAID THAT BOTH THE MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND FOOD CROPS LOANS WERE "UNFROZEN." I TOLD HIM THAT I DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONTEMPLATED INITIATING THE FOOD CROPS PROJECT THROUGH AID, AS THE IADB HAD TAKEN IT ON. HE SAID HE PROBABLY HAD MISUNDERSTOOD. HE COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD REPORT TO BURNHAM LATER IN THE DAY AND THAT THE LATTER WOULD BE GLAD TO HEAR THAT USG WOULD STUDY THE OVERVIEW OF THE MAZARUNI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT.

2. LLOYD SEARWAR, FOREIGN MINISTRY COUNSELOR, DURING SEPARATE CONVERSATION MARCH 16, COMMENTED THAT WILLS HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE CONCLUDED FROM THE WAY US OFFICIALS HAD STRUCTURED THE MEETINGS, THAT THEY HAD WANTED THE MEETINGS TO SUCCEED. THIS, IN ADDITION TO THE CORDIALITY AND DIRECTNESS WITH WHICH HE WAS TREATED BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND SECRETARY VANCE'S "SENSITIVITY" TO PROBLEMS FACED BY GUYANA AND OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, CAUSED WILLS TO CONCLUDE THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD SCRAP THE PREVIOUS "NEGATIVE" APPROACH TO THE REGION.

3. PRESS COVERAGE ON WILLS' TRIP AS OF MARCH 17 HAS BEEN LIMITED TO PUBLICATION ON MARCH 12 ON FRONT PAGE OF THE CHRONICLE OF THE MARCH 10 USIS WIRELESS ITEM. INTERESTINGLY, TWO DETAILED REPORTS ON JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WERE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

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4. COMMENT: WILLS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON IS STILL A SENSITIVE POLITICAL MATTER HERE AND THE GOG MUST HANDLE IT WITH CAUTION. EVERYONE--THE LEFTIST OPPOSITION, THE GOG'S MODERATE CRITICS AND GOG OFFICIALS--PERCEIVES IT AS A "CROW-EATING" EXERCISE. SUPPORTERS OF THE TRIP, WHILE ADMITTING NOTHING DRAMATIC COULD BE REALISTICALLY EXPECTED, HAD HOPED THE US MIGHT MAKE A "GRAND GESTURE" AND OFFER IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

5. THE PROMINENT COVERAGE GIVEN PATTERSON'S VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AIMED AT BLUNTING CRITICISM AND RIDICULE BY SHOWING THE PUBLIC THAT THE GOG IS NOT ALONE IN SEEKING BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE US. IN DECIDING HOW TO PLAY WILLS' VISIT FOR THE PUBLIC, BURNHAM WILL HAVE TO BALANCE OFF THE IMMEDIATE POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THE TRIP--BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE--AND CONSIDER ALSO THE LONG-TERM POTENTIAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES THAT AN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US MIGHT ENTAIL. IN

ADDITION TO THESE RATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS, OTHER OBSTACLES  
TO A REVERSAL OF PREVIOUS TRENDS REMAIN. THESE INCLUDE  
BURNHAM'S EGO, THE MOMENTUM OF THE COURSE FOLLOWED DURING  
THE RECENT MONTHS, PLUS SOVIET AND CUBAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS  
AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH JAGAN. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE,  
WE BELIEVE, IS A GROWING SENTIMENT IN THE GOG THAT GUYANA  
MUST ESTABLISH BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE US. WILLS'  
POSITIVE EXPERIENCE IN WASHINGTON SHOULD PROVIDE SOME  
STIMULUS FOR THE GROWTH OF THIS SENTIMENT. END COMMENT.  
BLACKEN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PDIP, EAID, GY, US, (WILLS, FREDERICK R)  
**To:** STATE  
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